Appl. No. 10/625,151
Amdt. Dated June 15, 2009
Reply to Office action of March 17, 2009

PATENT AF
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
ART UNIT: 3621

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method comprising:

receiving a request <u>transmitted over a communication network</u> from an electronic device <u>operatively connected to the communication network</u> requesting [[for]]a product code for a previously purchased product <u>that was purchased and provided to the electronic device in a disabled state before the request was transmitted</u>, <u>wherein</u> the request <s>including</s> <u>includes</u> an identification from the electronic device;

finding a product code associated with the identification; [[and]]

<u>retrieving the product code associated with the identification from a database of product codes;</u>

<u>responsive to said retrieving,</u> sending the product code to <u>be delivered to</u> the electronic device;

wherein the product code<u>, in response to being delivered to the electronic device, converts the product from the disabled state to an enabled state that</u> enables use of the <u>previously purchased</u> product on the electronic device, said <u>previously purchased</u> product not being usable on the electronic device until being enabled with the product code.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

copying the product code to a database when the product is purchased, the copying the product code to the database including associating the product code with the identification in the database.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the finding the product code further comprises finding the product code in the database using the identification of the received request.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

copying the product code to a database when the product and the electronic device are purchased.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the identification identifies the electronic device.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the identification identifies a customer.

Claims 7-22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

an order entry controller for receiving an order placed by a customer for a product to be executed by a processor provided to an electronic device;

a manufacturing controller for initiating delivery of the product to be stored in a storage device provided to the electronic device;

a computer-readable memory for storing a product code corresponding to the product ordered by the customer in association with at least one of an identification of the customer and an identification of the electronic device; and

~~means~~ a controller for:

receiving a request from [[an]]the electronic device over a communication network in response to installation or reinstallation of the product on the electronic device by the customer, wherein the request is for [[a]]the product code [[for a]] corresponding to the product previously purchased ~~product~~ and being installed or reinstalled by the customer, the request including [[an]]at least one of the identification [[from]]of the customer and the identification of the electronic device;

~~means for~~finding and retrieving a product code associated with the identification included in the request; and

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~~means for~~ sending the product code to <u>be delivered to</u> the electronic device;

wherein the product code ~~enables use of a~~ <u>is required to be entered into the electronic</u> <u>device before the</u> product <u>can be used</u> on the electronic device, said product not being usable on the electronic device until being enabled with the product code.

Claims 24-33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending the product code and the identification to a server when the product is purchased; and

copying the product code and the identification to a database on the server.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

retrieving the product code from the server to enable use of the product on the electronic device when the product is reinstalled on the electronic device.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

inserting the product code into an installation routine for reinstalling the previously purchased product to enable use or the product on the electronic device.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

loading the product onto the electronic device by a manufacturer of the electronic device;

loading the product code for the product onto the electronic device; and

copying the product code and the identification associated with the product code to a database to permit future retrieval of the product code using the identification.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the request for the product code is sent by the electronic device during an attempt to install the product on the electronic device.

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Claim 39 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the request for the product code is sent by the electronic device as a part of an installation process to install the product on the electronic device.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the request by the electronic device is transmitted over a network, and the product code is sent over the network to the electronic device.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the product was previously loaded on the electronic device making the request, and the request for the product code is made as part of a reinstallation process for the product on the electronic device.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the sending of the product code does not include sending the product for which the product code enables use.

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): A method comprising:

loading a product onto an electronic device by a manufacturer of the electronic device;

loading the product code for the product onto the electronic device to enable use of the product on the electronic device;

copying the product code and an identification associated with the product code to a database to permit future retrieval of the product code using the identification;

receiving a request from the electronic device for the product code for the product, the request including the identification from the electronic device;

searching the database using the identification to find the product code associated with the identification; and

sending the product code to the electronic device to permit reinstallation of the product on the electronic device utilizing the product code;

wherein the product code enables use of the product on the electronic device, said product not being usable on the electronic device until being enabled with the product code.

Claim 44 (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

a controller including a processor; and

a storage device, wherein the storage device includes instructions, which when executed on the processor cause the controller to:

receive a request from an electronic device <u>transmitted over a communication network requesting</u> [[for]]a product code for a previously purchased product <u>in response to installation or reinstallation of the product on the electronic device</u>, the request including an identification from the electronic device <u>and being received by the controller in response to installation or reinstallation of the product onto the electronic device by the user</u>;

<u>in response to receiving the request,</u> find <u>and retrieve</u> a product code associated with the identification; and

send the product code <u>that was retrieved in response to receiving the request</u> to the electronic device <u>over the communication network to be inserted into an installation routine during installation or reinstallation of the product and convert the product from a disabled state in which the product is not usable on the electronic device into an enabled state in which the product is usable on the electronic device</u>;

~~wherein the product code enables use of a product on the electronic device, said product not being usable on the electronic device until being enabled with the product code.~~

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Claim 45 (Withdrawn): A method comprising:

loading a product onto an electronic device by a manufacturer of the electronic device;

loading the product code for the product onto the electronic device to enable use of the product on the electronic device;

copying the product code and an identification associated with the product code to a database to permit future retrieval of the product code using the identification;

receiving a request for the product code for the product previously loaded on the electronic device, the request including the identification from the electronic device, the request being transmitted during an installation process for the product;

searching the database using the identification to find the product code associated with the identification; and

sending the product code to the electronic device to permit reinstallation of the product on the electronic device utilizing the product code;

wherein the product code enables use of the product on the electronic device, said product not

being usable on the electronic device until being enabled with the product code.